

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A strengthened polypropylene textile fiber, wherein the polypropylene is ~~selected from the group consisting of a propylene homopolymers~~ homopolymer, ~~a copolymers~~ copolymer containing up to about 10% by weight ethylene, ~~and or a C₄-C₂₀ alpha-olefin comonomers~~ comonomer, and wherein the polypropylene textile fiber is strengthened by about 0.59-4% by weight impact modifier of ethylene-propylene-diene-monomer that has elastomeric properties such that it can be elongated by at least 50% of its relaxed length by an applied force and that it will recover upon release of the applied force at least 40% of its elongation, and wherein the strengthened polypropylene textile fiber is softer than a comparable non-strengthened polypropylene fiber as determined by a Cup Crush Test.

Claims 2-4 (Canceled)

5. (Original) A spunbond fiber comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
6. (Original) A staple fiber comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
7. (Original) A multi-fiber yarn comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
8. (Original) A knit fabric comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
9. (Original) A woven fabric comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
10. (Original) A nonwoven fabric comprising the textile fiber of Claim 1.
11. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the nonwoven fabric of Claim 10.

Claims 12-19 (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven fabric comprising a plurality of modified polypropylene fibers, wherein the polypropylene is ~~selected from the group consisting of a propylene homopolymers homopolymer, a copolymers copolymer~~ containing up to about 10% by weight ethylene, ~~and or a~~ C₄-C₂₀ alpha-olefin ~~comonomers comonomer~~, and wherein the modified polypropylene fibers are strengthened with about 1-25% by weight impact modifier of ethylene-propylene-diene-monomer that has elastomeric properties such that it can be elongated by at least 50% of its relaxed length by an applied force and that it will recover upon release of the applied force at least 40% of its elongation, and wherein the modified polypropylene fibers are softer than comparable non-modified polypropylene fibers as determined by a Cup Crush Test.

21. (Original) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 20, wherein the modified fibers comprise about 2-15% by weight impact modifier.

22. (Original) The nonwoven fabric of Claim 20, wherein the modified fibers comprise about 3-10% by weight impact modifier.

23. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the nonwoven fabric of Claim 20.